**Covid-19 School Closure**

5.1.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are sure you are all aware of the Government’s decision to close all schools from Tuesday 4th January. During the time of school closure the school will be doing all we can to ensure we maintain the education of our children and to support the well-being of everyone in our West Jesmond Family.

**How will my child’s learning be supported at home?**

**The West Jesmond Home School**

During the time of closure the majority of our children will be learning remotely from home. We will be using Tapestry in EYFS and Seesaw for Years 1-6 to deliver our daily teaching.

**Our daily structure:**

* Look out for a morning message from Mr Ward and/or the Senior Leadership Team on Twitter and Facebook
* **9am:** A Good Morning message either from your child’s class teacher or a teacher in their year group
* **Morning:** First session English and second session Maths
* **Afternoon:** Wider curriculum areas including science, humanities and PE.
* **3pm** End of the day message, feedback and class story.

During the day we will be feeding back to children, uploading short teaching sessions and adding some additional input.

**Resources:** This Friday morning we will be organising a socially distanced pick up of work books and resources for parents. More details to follow.

**What happens if I am unable to work at the times set out?**

We know how hard it is for families who are juggling the many demands of work and family life. By having videos rather than live lessons available you will be able to access the work with your child at the time that suits you. We hope and expect our families to follow as much of the learning as possible, but we know this will not always be possible and we will be grateful for all the support you are able to give to your child. Remember we are there to help you and if you have any questions about your child’s learning please ask the class teacher.

**What do I do if I don’t have access to the work at home?**

We have a limited number of devices that we can loan to families without access to the Tapestry and SEESAW at home. Please contact the school office. Priority will be given first to those children eligible for Free School Meals

**Key Workers and Vulnerable Children**

School will be open for children classed as vulnerable and for children of Key workers who have no childcare options.

We know there are many parents at West Jesmond who might be classed as Key Workers and we want to support you. However, like you, we are all very concerned about the increased spread of the new variant of the virus and in order to keep our children and staff safe and to follow government guidelines we will need to limit numbers to safe class sizes.

It is clear from government guidance thatif children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. We ask that you please follow this advice and request a school place unless absolutely necessary.

If you are able to safely sort childcare, or you are working from home, please try to utilise all other means before sending children to school.

Please note that to support the learning of children in and out of school, your child may not be with their usual class teacher.

If we have many more children requesting places than we have are able to provide, we may need to allocate on a priority basis. This would start with families with two Key Workers, single parent Key Workers and parents working in the NHS. Please understand that difficult decisions may need to be made.

**If you do need a Key Worker place and fit the above criteria please complete the survey on WEduc today. Please clearly state your profession and the days you need a place in school. If you do not need every day please make that clear.**

This was not the letter I wanted to send out to our West Jesmond Families at the start of my time as headteacher.

We will miss you all so much over the next period and we wish the very best for every one of you. We will be there for you by phone or email if there is anything we can do to help.

Remember; please phone the school at any time if you feel isolated, worried and vulnerable or have any suggestions and questions about Home School learning.

We look forward to seeing all the West Jesmond Family back together soon, united, happy and strong!

My best hopes and wishes go to every one of you.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Ward (Headteacher)